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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/626,347	07/26/2000	Albert Henricus Franciscus de Heer	GDT1P001	8436

64313　　　　7590　　　08/08/2007	EXAMINER
NIXON PEABODY LLP	DARNO, PATRICK A
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WASHINGTON, DC 20004	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2163	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _27 June 2007_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-24_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-24_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _22 December 2006_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some *   c)☐ None of:

       1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

       2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

       3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 18-24 are new. Claims 1-2, 4, 6-9, and 11-17 have been amended. Claim 10 has

been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-9 and 9-24 are pending in this office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

2.   Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent

Number 5,740,425 issued to David Povilus (hereinafter "Povilus") in view of U.S. Patent

Application Publication Number 2003/0130905 issued to William G. Foster et al. (hereinafter

"Foster") and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 7,107,226 issued to Patrick Cassidy et al.

(hereinafter "Cassidy").

Claim 1:

Povilus teaches "at least one class definition, each class definition...associated

categories..." *(Povilus: see abstract – i.e. "defining classes of product groupings...")* "a plurality of category

definitions...attribute group..." *(Povilus: see col. 54, lines 46-66)* "a plurality of attribute group

definitions, each...having an associated possible value list that identifies..." *(Povilus: see col. 14,*

lines 57-67, whereas Povilus' teachings of characteristics that differentiate each class...grouping...", clearly teaches

group definitions having a value list that identifies values as indicated in applicant's claim language).

Povilus does not teach "a plurality of possible value list each possible value list...so as to

minimize potential error during inputting and storing of product data..." However, *Foster*

teaches "a plurality of possible value list each possible value list...so as to minimize potential error during inputting and storing product data..." *(Foster: see paragraph [0024], [0033], and [0066]).*

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for one of ordinary skill in the art to have combined the teachings of Povilus and Foster, because using the steps of "a plurality of possible value list each possible value list...so as to minimize potential error during inputting and storing of product data..." would have given those skilled in the art the ability to designate classes of product data by grouping them in regards to a data model. This gives users the advantage of processing product information according to groups more accurately.

Povilus does not explicitly teach "a plurality of predetermined, user selectable...predetermined, user selectable values." *Cassidy* teaches "a plurality of predetermined, user selectable...predetermined, user selectable values" *(Cassidy: see col. 4, lines 36-57 and col. 5, lines 39-63).*

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for one of ordinary skill in the art to have combined the teachings of Povilus and Cassidy above, because using the steps of "a plurality of predetermined, user selectable...predetermined, user selectable values", would have given those skill in the art the ability to provide predetermined attributes and values regarding the inputting of data electronically. This gives users the advantage of receiving the most accurate data via an input mechanism more efficiently.

Claim 2:

Claim 2 is rejected on grounds corresponding to arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

--**_Povilus_** teaches "a plurality of possible unit lists each possible..." *(Povilus: see col. 13, lines*

34-67 and col. 14, lines 1-24, whereas Povilus' block...", is equivalent to applicant use of the term "unit").

Claims 3 & 4:

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given for rejected

claims 1-2 and are similarly rejected including the following:

--**_Povilus_** teaches "possible value list is combined with each one...a normalized value"

(Povilus: col. 19, lines 15-27).

Claim 5:

Claim 5 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected

claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Povilus teaches attributes associated with a data capture priority indicator that assigns

priorities..." *(Povilus: see col. 14, lines 64, whereas Povilus' inheritance block with attributes incorporate an*

order or priority of attributes associated with the different blocks, therefore teach attributes with a priority that

assigns priorities as taught by the applicant above.).

Claim 6:

Claim 6 is rejected on the grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for

rejected claim 1 and is similarity rejected including the following:

Povilus teaches "a possible coutries table specifying one or more countries that are

selectable as countries for which a product is adapted for sale" *(Povilus: see figure 19 – sheet 14 of 38*

and col. 19-20, lines 57-67, and 1-30 respectively; whereas Povilus' table clearly has placeholders for variable

information (i.e., countries) that are selectable with a sale element attached, as indicated by the applicant's claim

language above.).

Claim 7:

Claim 7 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected

claims 1 and 6 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Povilus teaches "platforms that are compatible with a specific product" *(Povilus: see col. 19,*

lines 24-67).

Claim 8:

Claim 8 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments above for rejected claim 1

and is similarly rejected including the following:

Povilus teaches "a plurality of manufacturer SKUs...SKU system..." *(Povilus: see col. 6,*

lines 47-67) "a customer mapping table that maps each system SKU to a customer..." *(Povilus: col.*

22, lines 20-67).

Claim 9 and 11:

Claim 9 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected

claims 2-3 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Claim 11 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected

claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Povilus teaches "a category identifier associated with each one of the plurality of

products...corresponding product" *(Povilus: see col. 3, lines 8-54).*

Claim 12:

Claim 12 is rejected on the grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for

rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Povilus teaches "a manufacturer product description associated with each one of

the...describing standard features of the associated product" *(Povilus: see col. 51, lines 34-67).*

Claim 13:

Claim 13 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments above for rejected claim

1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Povilus teaches "an image table including link to one or more images illustrating the

plurality of products..." *(Povilus: see col. 25, lines 16-50).*

Claim 14:

Claim 14 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected

claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Povilus teaches "a marketing description for selected...products" *(Povilus: see col. 33, lines*

55-67 and col. 34, lines 5-25).

Claims 15 & 16:

Claims 15-16 are rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for

rejected claims 1, and 6-7 and are similarly rejected.

Claim 17:

Claim 17 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected

claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Povilus teaches "a product compatibility table including platform compatibility..."

(Povilus: see col. 29, lines 45-67 and col. 30, lines 30-56).

Claim 18:

Claim 18 is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1.

Claim 19:

Claim 19 is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 2.

Claim 20:

Claim 20 is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 4.

Claim 21:

Claim 21 is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 5.

Claim 22:

Claim 22 is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 6.

Claim 23:

Claim 23 is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 7.

Claim 24:

Claim 24 is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 1 and 8.

Response to Arguments

As per Applicant's arguments regarding the combination of references cited "...the cited references of Povilus, Foster et al., and Cassidy et al., even in combination, still fails to disclose, teach, or otherwise suggest the invention as claimed..." Examiner disagrees; Each element of the Applicant's claims has been mapped to the prior art above. At the very least, it is abundantly clear that each element of independent claim 1 is found in the prior art of record. Furthermore, proper motivation to combine cited references was given in the preceding office action.

As per Applicant's arguments "The Examiner's characterization in the present office action of what the Povilus patent discloses is clearly improper, and the Applicant's respectfully request the withdrawal of the Examiner's assertions as to the features disclosed by the Povilus

patent..." Examiner disagrees. The Examiner maintains that the cited portions of Povilus adequately read on the Applicant's claimed invention.

As per Applicant's arguments "The cited secondary Foster et al. reference fails to cure the deficiencies of the primary Povilus reference in that, as noted in the prior amendment, the Foster reference merely discloses pull down type menus with nesting sub-menus for identifying a product in an existing catalog..." Examiner disagrees. The teachings of Foster at paragraphs [0024], [0033], and [0066] reads on the Applicant's claim limitation of "...a plurality of possible value list each possible value list...so as to minimize potential error during inputting and storing of data..." Therefore, the rejections given under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are upheld.

As per Applicant's arguments "...it is respectfully submitted that even if there was motivation to modify Povilus with Foster et al. and Cassidy et al., such combination still does not result in a system with value lists recited in independent claim 1..." Examiner disagrees. Each element of the Applicant's claimed invention has been mapped to the prior art above. And proper motivation was given to combine the references.

All remaining arguments simply consist of accusations and allegations instead of specifically and distinctly pointing out errors in the Examiner's office action. No supporting rationale is given to support the allegations set forth by the Applicant.. The Examiner reminds the Applicant of his/her responsibility under 37 C.F.R. 1.111(b). The Examiner directs the Applicant back to the Examiner's preceding office action and the rejections will be maintained until further evidence or explanation is given as to why the rejections should be overturned.
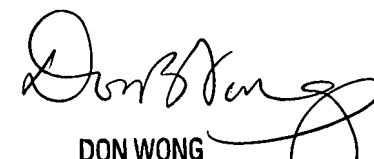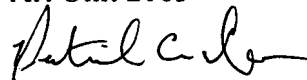
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Patrick A. Darno whose telephone number is (571) 272-0788.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

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applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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